

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Daniel G. Schweikert, John F. MacDonald
Assignee: Sun Microsystems, Inc.
Title: METAL REGION FOR REDUCTION OF CAPACITIVE COUPLING
BETWEEN SIGNAL LINES
Serial No.: 09/452,367 Filed: November 30, 1999
Examiner: Mitchell, James M. Group Art Unit: 2827
Docket No.: P-3790

Monterey, CA
January 31, 2003

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 20-29, and 31-34 have been cancelled without prejudice.

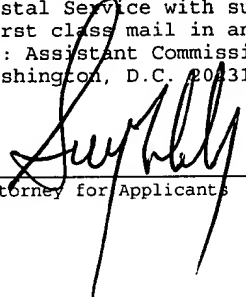
Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

16. (TWICE AMENDED) A structure comprising:
a substrate;
a first signal line above said substrate;
a second signal line above said substrate, wherein unused substrate surface area exists between said first signal line and said second signal line;
a first shield line in said unused substrate surface area and;
a second shield line electrically connected to said first shield line, wherein said first shield line and said second shield line are part of a single conductor layer and wherein

said first shield line and said second shield line are electrically floating.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20531, on January 31, 2003.



Attorney for Applicants

January 31, 2003

Date of Signature